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**U.S. JUDGE SENTENCES CARMEL MAN TO 235 MONTHS
IN PRISON FOR WESTCHESTER KIDNAPPING FOLLOWED BY RAPE**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JAMES A. REPANTI was sentenced in White Plains federal court today to 235 months (19 years and 7 months) in prison for kidnapping a woman in North Salem, Westchester County, in April 2000, and taking her to New Fairfield, Connecticut, where he raped her. During sentencing, United States District Judge COLLEEN MCMAHON told REPANTI, 37, of Carmel, New York, that she had "never read a viler pre-sentence report, one that frightened me more for the safety of the community."

During his guilty plea in December REPANTI admitted that in April of last year he picked up a woman who was walking down a road and took her against her will across the state line to New Fairfield, where he forced her to have sexual intercourse with him. According to a Complaint filed against REPANTI in May 2000, the victim of the offense was walking to the Purdys train station on April 24, 2002, when REPANTI grabbed her and forced

her into his car. In Connecticut, according to the Complaint, the victim escaped her attacker by running into a pharmacy in New Fairfield.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the New York and Connecticut State Police and the Danbury (Ct.) Police Department, and thanked JEANINE PIRRO, the Westchester County District Attorney, for her cooperation and assistance.

Mr. COMEY stated: "Kidnapping, especially when coupled with the terror of rape, is a horrific crime that this Office takes very seriously. I wish to thank particularly the New York and Connecticut State Police and the Danbury Police Department, whose efforts were instrumental in bringing this defendant to justice, and Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro, whose cooperation in this case is a prime example of how cooperation between state and federal prosecutors can lead to swift and effective law enforcement."

Assistant United States Attorney STEPHEN J. RITCHIN is in charge of the prosecution.